



# REVIEWS

## BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

### HEGEMONY OR SURVIVAL:

#### America's quest for global dominance by Noam Chomsky

Allen & Unwin, Australia, 2003 (first published by Henry Holt & Co., USA, 2003 ISBN 1-74114-162-1 (278pp tpb)

Availability: Bookstores; Amazon.com

America's quest for global dominance at all costs is an extreme threat to the survival of humanity and our environment. So says Noam Chomsky, the foremost intellectual critic of US policy at home and abroad, in his first major book in a decade.

It took less than a year from the tragic events of 9-11 for the world, Europe in particular, to wake up to the fact that the United States government posed more of a threat to global freedom than did Saddam Hussein. Chomsky considers why the current Bush/neo-con plan for world hegemony (domination) has not come out of the blue; it's part of a "grand imperial strategy" that the US has been pursuing for well over half a century (if not for twice that, closer to home), spurred on in part by "humanitarian interventions" with hidden agendas and the corporations that have much to gain from this global domination drive. Chomsky is at his incisive, logical best, and his arguments carry weight that we can only hope will filter through to ordinary citizens.

The current US government's grand plan for "preventive war" belies its true purpose, i.e., to gain territorial and economic power, and Chomsky explains how this strategy falls within the definition of war crimes and is far removed from what's acceptable under

international law; indeed, this administration is rewriting the lawbooks. These are dangerous times, and democracy is under threat as never before, both in the US and abroad. With new technological advances come ever more frightening possibilities, including the militarisation of space.

The good American people need to realise what their government is inflicting on them and the world at large. In the name of truth, freedom and justice, they need to wake up if we're to have a collective future at all.

### WEAPONS OF MASS DECEPTION by Sheldon Rampton & John Stauber

Jeremy P. Tarcher/Penguin, USA, 2003 ISBN 1-58542-276-2 (246pp pb)

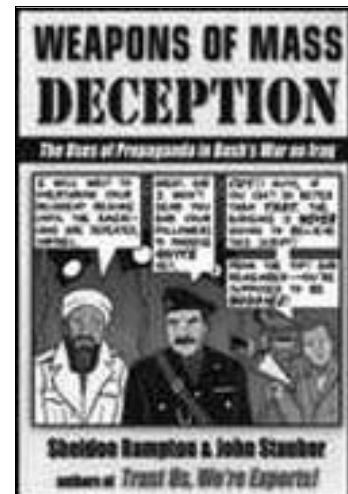
Availability: Penguin Group website, <http://www.penguin.com>

It takes brave Americans these days to stand up and declare that the Emperor is wearing no clothes, who can see through the façade of the Bush neo-conservative agenda for the con that it is. Sheldon Rampton and John Stauber, of the US Center for Media & Democracy (as well as editors of *PR Watch* and authors of *Trust Us, We're Experts!* and *Mad Cow USA* [see Reviews, NEXUS 9/03, 5/04]), go out on a limb to show how propaganda has been used to such powerful effect to win over the hearts and minds of Americans in the US-led War on Iraq and the post-Saddam era.

Unfortunately, Americans who don't access the international media are very ill informed on how foreigners view US government/military actions. That view is not complimentary. The domestic media sources are manipulated so that the general populace is fed a diet of hype that shows their fellow Americans in Iraq as forces of

good combatting evil. They did it before in Gulf War I, and they're doing it again in the sequel. The public is shockingly misled on the number of US casualties, wounded and dead, that are the tragic result of their government's ulterior motive of gaining precious oil resources. While White House officials use repetition, misinformation, fear tactics, doublespeak and other propaganda techniques to create false impressions, e.g., that links exist between Saddam Hussein, al-Qa'ida and 9-11, media commentators apply self-censorship and toe the official line without providing any critical analysis of their government's actions and deceptions. We should ask whether the war on terror is being fought against the wrong enemies, in the wrong places and with the wrong weapons, the authors suggest.

*Weapons of Mass Deception* can help you fine-tune your spin-detector mechanism and be alert to the "true lies" we're being fed.



# REVIEWS



## ANYTHING CAN BE HEALED

by Martin Brofman, PhD

Findhorn Press, UK, 2003

ISBN 1-84409-016-7 (460pp tpb)

Availability: Order online from  
<http://www.findhornpress.com> or  
<http://www.healer.ch>

**M**artin Brofman, PhD, believes that everyone has the innate power and ability to heal themselves, as he found out when he overturned a terminal cancer diagnosis in 1975 through relaxation, meditation, visualisation and positive thinking.

He went on to develop a practical healing technique, the Body-Mind Mirror System, which focuses on the physical body as a reflection of the consciousness within. A change in consciousness creates a change in the energy field, and this appears before any change on the physical level. This has enormous implications for how we regard both health and illness. As a Zen teacher told him shortly after his two-month health crisis, "Cancer begins in your mind, and that's where you can get rid of it".

Brofman seems to have drawn much inspiration from the ancient Vedic science of the soul, with its understanding of the energy fields and chakras. These principles are echoed in many other ancient healing systems (the Hawaiian Huna, for instance) and are easily accessed by anyone with the will to self-heal. There's practical information on the law of cause and effect, the reality of subtle bodies and the healing power of love. Brofman covers the broad territory that takes in the human energy fields, past life experiences, healing with white light and with thought-forms, distance healing and self-healing. He includes a number of exercises for feeling and seeing energy and directing it

for healing, as well as a guide to the chakras, their colours and qualities.

As co-creators, we have untapped potential to take charge of our own health and well-being. Brofman's advice and techniques are a sure-fire route to realising our true power.

## THE UNTOLD STORY OF MILK: Green Pastures, Contented Cows and Raw Dairy Foods

by Ron Schmid, ND

New Trends Publishing, Inc., Washington,  
DC, USA, 2003

ISBN 0-9670897-4-3 (460pp tpb)

Availability: Order online from  
<http://www.NewTrendsPublishing.com>

**A**s governments around the world ban the sale of raw milk in their misguided belief that they are protecting public health, the raw milk movement is on the rise and fighting for what is a common law right.

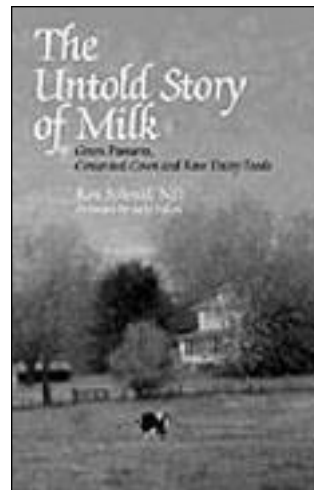
Naturopathic physician and farmer Ron Schmid discusses in his excellent book, *The Untold Story of Milk*, how raw milk and raw milk products (including butter, buttermilk, yoghurt and cheese) have a range of health benefits. The pasteurisation process, on the other hand, destroys essential enzymes and nutrients, making the milk a non-food that causes a variety of health problems for many people consuming it.

Dr Schmid explains how the humble cow, goat and sheep and their bounty are intrinsically linked with the rise and progress of civilisations. Most dairy farmers and their families use raw milk products without any ill effects. In the days before pasteurisation became mandatory, physicians even used to prescribe raw milk to treat a range of health conditions. It's a

microbes versus milieu argument; the enzymes, vitamins and even bacteria in raw milk foods actually *strengthen* the immune system. As for any link between animal fat consumption and heart disease, Dr Schmid explodes this myth. He says the push for pasteurisation came from the USA after the rise of confinement dairies in the 19th and early 20th centuries. People became ill from milk when cows were fed acid waste from distilleries. Pasteurisation was introduced to treat what was *toxic* milk.

We are reminded that milk-producing animals are healthier and more contented when they graze in the open on chemical-free green pastures, without the addition of toxic chemicals or antibiotics in their diets.

Modern industrial agricultural processes have taken us far away from our link with nature. It's time we reconnected. What a shame, though, that we have to fight for our rights to utilise nature's true foods.





# REVIEWS

## PROFILES OF HEALING – HANDS OF FAITH: HEALERS OF BRAZIL

edited by Bradford Keeney, PhD

Ringling Rocks Press, Philadelphia, 2003

ISBN 0-918172-38-1 (142pp tpb)

Availability: Order online from Ringling Rocks Press, <http://www.ringingrocks.org>

The US-based Ringling Rocks Foundation has a mission to preserve global healing wisdom through education, research and special programs. *Hands of Faith* is a beautifully produced volume that presents the life stories of two renowned Brazilian spiritual healers: Otavia Alves Pimentel Barbosa, and João Fernandes de Carvalho. It's part of the inspirational *Profiles of Healing* series.

These pages are of thick stock and feature striking photographs with gorgeous colour frames and backgrounds as well as wise quotes and touching poetry. The first half features Otavia's story; to access the second, João's story, turn the book over and start again from the beginning! The book comes with a CD with prayers by João and blessings by Otavia in Portuguese, plus three Brazilian musical interludes (one in a *bossa nova* style) by Edu Passeto and Zuzi Alves.

These two beloved elders (Otavia is at least 96, and João has been married for 56 years, to give you an idea) were raised in poor circumstances. They are humble, dedicated spiritual healers who have never charged for their ministrations. Otavia declares she has given her soul to the task of making people's lives a little better; she uses hands-on techniques and lives by the motto of "Love is the power of healing". João turns in faith to Jesus and Mary and has prescriptions enter his mind; although unable to train as a doctor, he's had an interest in pharmacology since his youth. With every cure,

he feels "a joyous party" in his heart. Their stories are told in their own words and translated into English; family members and friends also give their loving tributes.

Editor Dr Bradford Keeney says these two healers "stand out by the purity and strength of their faith"; their "miracles" are a result of being open in a pure, heartfelt way. The book serves to renew our faith in love.

## THE BRAZILIAN HEALER WITH THE KITCHEN KNIFE and Other Stories of Mystics, Shamans, and Miracle-Makers by Sandy Johnson

Rodale, USA, 2003

ISBN 0-9670897-4-3 (460pp tpb)

Availability: Order online from <http://www.rodalestore.com>, tel (800) 848 4735 (toll free, North America)

Many NEXUS readers will know exactly to whom the title of this book refers: João de Deus, the Brazilian healer who performs miraculous operations, sometimes with a simple kitchen knife, with the intercession of a host of formerly living beings like St Ignatius of Loyola at his healing centre in the remote village of Abadiânia in Goiás, Brazil. John of God is just one of the many practitioners featured in this book by US journalist, author and social researcher Sandy Johnson, although it seems he in particular has changed her system of beliefs as to what is possible. What they seem to have in common is the ability to reconnect people with their own healing life force.

From her observations, Johnson sees that these gifted healers, all of whom have their own special way of relating to the Divine, are transformers of the mind and soul as well as the body. Indeed, she started on her path of exploration during her own recovery

from breast cancer. Her travels have brought her in touch with diverse types of healers as well as our own self-healing placebo effect. There's Warren Barigian from the Yosemite Valley, who remaps brains; Santa Fe-based shamanic healer Sandra Ingerman, who retrieves the part of a person's soul that flees during illness or trauma; and Auntie Margaret from the Big Island of Hawai'i, who practises the ancient *lomilomi* healing art. Also featured are Idaho housewife Vianna Stibal, who conducts "distance healings" by phone; Gary Brownlee, who has carried on Dr Milton Trager's method of healing polio victims; and Gerry Bostock, an Australian of Aboriginal descent who heals using love, light, crystals and energy. Johnson tells it like it is, unsterilised instruments and all!

These healers have made a profound difference to many people and have their part to play in the new healing paradigm.



# REVIEWS



## LIVING DANGEROUSLY: Are everyday toxins making you sick?

by Pat Thomas

Newleaf/Gill & Macmillan, Dublin, 2003  
ISBN 0-7171-3600-0 (356pp tpb)  
Availability: Order online via  
<http://www.gillmacmillan.ie>; Banyan Tree,  
South Australia, tel (08) 8363 4244

Wouldn't we all love to have glowing health and abundant energy? The fact is that most of us don't feel as well as we'd like to, and are plagued by any number of vague symptoms from headaches and digestive disorders to fatigue and mood swings. All too many suffer from major illnesses such as arthritis, cancer and diabetes. Why?

In her well-referenced book, *Living Dangerously*, UK author and psychotherapist Pat Thomas (editor of the alternative health newsletter, *PROOF!*), says we don't have these symptoms without a reason—and that is that we are being poisoned by the toxins in our everyday environment. We have to be extremely vigilant if we're to reduce this "silent stress" from toxic overload and find our path to glowing good health.

These environmental toxins include *airborne pollutants* such as benzene, xylene and volatile organic compounds, found in perfumes, petrol and consumer products; *endocrine disruptors* present in pesticides, plastics, toiletries, flame retardants and industrial pollution; *electromagnetic fields* linked with electrical equipment such as TVs, computers and other home appliances; *pesticides* found in and on foods and in our water supply; and *heavy metals* such as mercury in dental amalgam and those found in some fish, food preservatives and cosmetics. The cumulative effects of just one of these toxins is bad enough; but when several are

combined, they eventually cause a staggering overload of the immune system.

Thomas deals with all these stressors and suggests practical ways we can reduce our overall toxic burden. These steps can be as simple as eating organically grown food and avoiding processed food, taking specific nutritional supplements, reducing EMF exposure; and drinking clean, non-fluoridated, non-chlorinated water. She includes tips on encouraging a zest for life, and useful contacts for consumers who want to learn more about toxins and their effect on health.

## THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

by David Staume

Llewellyn Publications, USA, 2004  
ISBN 0-7387-0426-1 (171pp tpb)  
Availability: Llewellyn Worldwide, website <http://www.llewellyn.com>

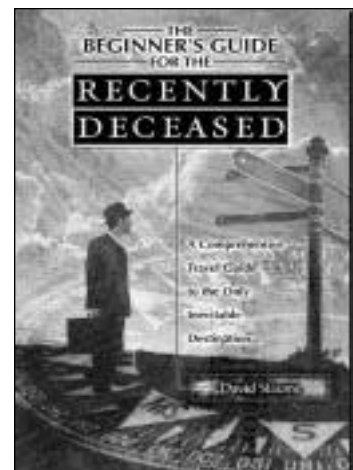
There have been books written about people who've had near-death experiences, but nothing much from anyone who has been to "the other side" and returned to tell the tale. While the author is still very much among us, his "essential reading for the pre-deceased", as the back cover blurb suggests, is the next best thing to actually being there.

David Staume, an Australian naturopath and herbalist, has done the hard work by studying the body of knowledge provided by science, metaphysics and theosophy and distilling it into an accessible, often humorous, form for pre-departed people such as ourselves. If you're going to embark on a journey, you want some information to pave the way for what you may encounter, so why not be armed in advance for the ultimate destination, death—a journey we all have to take? It helps to know how to prepare for

this final departure and to know there is something on the "other side". Life beyond this one is a reality because consciousness survives death, says Staume and an array of spiritual teachers who have inspired him.

Staume presents a conceptual framework based on his forays into metaphysical wisdom to give the reader a "feel" for the experience of being deceased and finding a way through post-death consciousness and astral territory. The entertaining tone of the book is refreshing: why be morose about this ultimate journey of a lifetime when there are so many adventures ahead, though not quite in the same physical sense that we know now?

If consciousness is an energy, Staume says the Universe will tend towards conserving that energy, thus logically it's more than likely that consciousness survives after death. But why wait till then when you can prepare now? In the end, this book shows how we can make the most of living life creatively in the here and now!





# REVIEWS

## UNLOCKING ALIEN CLOSETS: Abductions, Mind Control, and Spirituality

by Leah A. Haley

Greenleaf Publications, TN, USA, 2003

ISBN 1-883729-08-4 (312pp tpb)

Availability: Greenleaf Publications, website <http://www.greenleafpublications.com>

This is the fourth book by Leah A. Haley, a Tennessee-based publisher, public accountant, holder of two masters degrees—and an alien abductee. She published her first book, *Lost Was The Key*, in 1993, three years after she began to recall two alien encounters in her past. She then started having frightening new experiences involving different types of aliens as well as OMACS—"obnoxious military and government scoundrels"—who once kidnapped and threatened her at gunpoint, she says, to exact her silence. But she hasn't kept quiet.

Haley's story, which covers 1992 to early 2003, will ring true for so many people because of the commonalities of their experiences. Thus Haley feels her story is less about herself and more about humanity. However, she does point out that she's not read too widely about others' experiences lest she "contaminate" her own testimony.

Most people who've alien abduction experiences find it hard enough to cope, let alone admit such "high strangeness" to outsiders. Trying to understand the reality of aliens and the abduction experience with its related phenomena such as missing time and strange marks on the body is one thing; coming to terms with a government cabal exerting mind control and manipulating her thoughts and even her love life, harassing her with unmarked black helicopters and cooperating with aliens is another.

Haley is quite religious, and after prayer or Bible-reading she began to receive visions, and then telepathically transmitted messages and symbols (some reproduced in the book) from an intelligent source whom she calls "the Silent Voice". This brought on many wonders as well as uncertainties as to whether what she'd been told was the truth. Yet, her faith in the Divine helped her through these crises and remains unshakable amidst what she sees as "a spiritual war" on Earth. She encourages others to connect with their faith and live without fear.

## CLOAK OF THE ILLUMINATI

by William Henry

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2003

ISBN 1-931882-23-1 (214pp tpb)

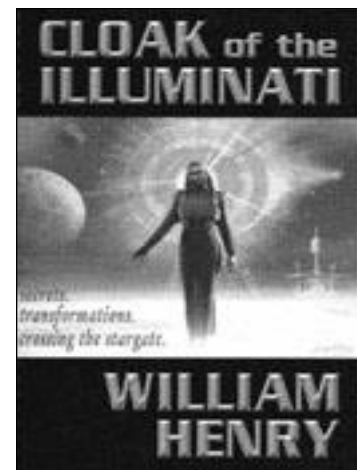
Availability: NEXUS offices; Adventures Unlimited, [www.adventuresunlimited-press.com](http://www.adventuresunlimited-press.com); [www.adventuresunlimited.nl](http://www.adventuresunlimited.nl)

This book is a veritable feast for those who seek knowledge from the ancient wisdom traditions passed down through the ages. Author William Henry aptly calls himself an "investigative mythologist", and his prime focus is on researching ancient codes that have served to help individuals find higher vibrational levels of experience and self-healing. These keys are still relevant today for the evolution of humanity.

In *Cloak of the Illuminati*, his ninth book, he suggests that humankind is poised to don a "power suit" in the 21st century—a garb that incorporates genes, bits, neurons and atoms and might even be tuned to the frequency of love and allow interdimensional time travel via stargates and wormholes. Henry's view is informed not just by modern scientific progress but by evidence for technological leaps made by the ancients,

whether in Egypt, Sumeria, Mongolia or Mexico. These ancestors had keys to the stargates, he says, and the Maya prophecy supposedly points to the return of these time portals in 2012 when the Earth aligns with galactic centre. The point is to prime the individual for this alignment and any accompanying possibilities for enlightenment.

One of the amazing parallels Henry makes is between a 2nd-century Chinese manuscript featuring the Meru pillar and the layout of the Tennessee Bicentennial Capitol Mall in Nashville. This structure has to be seen to be believed: it's a showcase of sacred geometry and seems designed to promote bioenergetic flow in those who enter its realm. Henry's analysis of the geometry and symbolism of these designs serves to confirm that many of the keys to the ancient wisdom teachings are still accessible to those who care to look. For a sneak peek at these investigations, visit the author's website at <http://www.williamhenry.net>.



# REVIEWS



## BIOTECH TIME-BOMB

by Scott Eastham

RSVP Publishing, Auckland, NZ, 2003

ISBN 0-9582182-2-6 (128pp tpb)

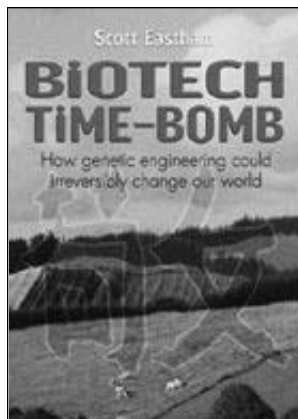
Availability: RSVP Publishing, website

<http://www.rsvp-publishing.co.nz>; Banyan

Tree, South Australia, tel (08) 8363 4244

While the products of genetic engineering are being foisted upon much of the world's populace, this gem of a book argues for a pause so we can reassess our values—whatever our economic rationalist culture has left of them. It's also a call for *real* dialogue between proponents and critics of gene science, in the hope that both sides, together, will see the bigger picture.

Written by Scott Eastham, Senior Lecturer in the School of English and Media Studies at Massey University, New Zealand, *Biotech Time-bomb* has particular significance not just for the world but for his native country, whose government decided in October 2003 *not* to renew a GE crop moratorium. Now NZ agritech corporations are inserting



human genes into cows, supposedly to create better milk for human consumption! How we got to this level of madness is part of Eastham's erudite argument, and it touches on the history of speech, literacy (including the Western phonetic alphabet vs Chinese bigger-picture ideograms), printing, code-writing, automation and the digital revolution. These are relevant to the discussion because each involves a control paradigm. In the case of biotechnology, the DNA code is but a fragment of the whole: decoding the human genome can barely lay out the map, let alone describe the territory.

So how can biotech scientists hope to control their creations once they're out of the lab, when they cannot foresee the effects over time? How will they be able to deal with irreversible effects on the environment and on human and animal health from the biotech revolution? They can't. So how can we tame their arrogant thinking? Essential to dealing with this, Eastham proposes, is

for all of us, including the scientists and the corporations/organisations that fund their work, to realise that life is a precious gift; that it is complex and thus unpredictable when tampered with and released at large.

We all need to wake up before we destroy ourselves, our environment and our future.

## RECODING NATURE

edited by Richard Hindmarsh and Geoffrey Lawrence

UNSW Press, Sydney, Australia, 2004

ISBN 0-86840-741-0 (246pp tpb)

Availability: UNIREPS, tel +61 (0)2 9664

0912, <http://www.unireps.com.au>

The huge ethical, social and environmental issues associated with the biotechnology revolution of recent decades are looming larger with the "progress" of science, yet the public has had little input into the debate. Perhaps it's because people regard the subject as too hard to grasp. However, it would be a grave mistake to leave all these decisions to the scientists, corporate technocrats, bureaucrats and politicians. For the sake of preserving our future, it's up to all of us to become better informed.

This compilation, *Recoding Nature*, is a great source of information from a variety of contributors from Australian and New Zealand, who give perspectives on the scientific, health and environmental questions arising from biotechnology—whether from growing and consuming genetically engineered foods, developing and using GE designer drugs, applying gene therapy techniques in medical treatments, or creating cloned animals and even humans. The book is edited by Queensland academics and GE critics Richard Hindmarsh and Geoffrey Lawrence. The foreword is by UK geneticist Dr Mae-Wan Ho, who, through the Institute of Science in Society, is leading an international group of scientists who are issuing strong warnings on the risks of going down the GE path. One of the approaches reflected in the compilation is the growing trend towards organic farming and consumption, as seen in the pieces from Hugh Campbell of Otago University, NZ, and Scott Kinnear, organic farmer, activist and spokesperson for the Biological Farmers of Australia. By definition, organic growing must not be contaminated by GE.

Another issue highlighted in the book is "biocolonisation", where the genetics of indigenous peoples and plants are subject to commodification without reward for the owners of those genes. People all around the world are having to become activists to protect their genetic heritage from pillage by biotechnology corporations.

The compilation gives solid information on these controversial issues of our times.



# REVIEWS

## BEEN BROWN SO LONG IT LOOKED LIKE GREEN TO ME

by Jeffrey St Clair

Common Courage Press, USA, 2004  
ISBN 1-56751-258-5 (407pp tpb)  
Availability: Common Courage Press,  
orders-info@commoncouragepress.com,  
<http://www.commoncouragepress.com>

Touted as "the most radical environmental writer in America", Jeffrey St Clair is scathing in his review of the state of the environment and how our natural world has been ravaged by corporate marauders, corrupt politicians, apathetic bureaucrats and the complicit corporate media.

The mostly US-centric articles compiled for this book were written between 1995 and 2003, and St Clair sets the scene in his introduction, "The Map Is Not The Territory", where he describes the devastating effect of a "century of unbridled clearcutting" in the Cascades region of Oregon, near where he and his family moved in 1990. It's not just the landscape that's been destroyed; entire ecosystems have been wiped out.



Meantime, the grassroots environmental groups "couldn't survive the Clinton ice age" and by the mid-1990s mainstream environmentalism became tongue-tied by foundation grants. The situation has deteriorated ever since, as he documents in his chapter on the Bush Administration and its anti-environment agenda. Yet there's still reason to be optimistic, and St Clair praises a long list of activists prepared to shake things up.

The Wild Matters section highlights how compromised the natural world has become, the article on "Oceans without Fish" being just one shocking exposé. Toxic Nation looks at, for example, how the huge chemical corporations like Monsanto want us to eat a diet of dioxins, and Power Plays considers the havoc wreaked by oil companies in Alaska, among other tales of environmental rape and pillage. On Native Ground deplores how Native Americans continue to be ripped off by stupid white men's agendas, and The Military Menace shows the eco-

destruction from nuclear testing, chemical weapons and hazardous waste.

There's so much more in this book, but we're left with the overwhelming impression that we must become much more politically active if we're going to put a stop to all this governmental and corporate carelessness and greed. Top marks to St Clair!

## TRANSFORMING THE GLOBAL BIOSPHERE

by Elliott Maynard, PhD

Arcos Cielos Research Center, USA, 2003  
ISBN 0-9721713-1-2 (310pp hc)  
Availability: Arcos Cielos Research Center, <http://www.arcoscielos.com>

Planet Earth and her inhabitants are at a crossroads with global environmental, social and economic crises. We need practical new strategies for sanity and sustainability, as Elliot Maynard, PhD, proposes in *Transforming the Global Biosphere*. Dr Maynard, who has a background in zoology, oceanography, ecology and consciousness research, co-founded in 1978 (with his wife, Sharon) the Arcos Cielos Research Center in Sedona, Arizona, as a non-profit centre for developing new paradigms in science, education, ecology and human potential.

Dr Maynard argues for a "transformative revolution on a global scale", one that requires new ways of thinking and living. He says we must change our ways to live within "an inspired and self-imposed global constitution of sustainable limits" at all levels of society. He discusses 12 "metastrategies" for achieving this, e.g., via a transformative education system, a sustainable global resource management plan, enlightened population management, a global shift to clean, renewable energy, a global "green revolution", and new global programs for waste reduction, treatment and recycling. While he points out the massive problems in these areas around the world, he has plenty of ideas for how to solve them.

Other strategies are: establishing guidelines for sustainable human ecologies (including "slow cities"), providing clean, energy-efficient global transportation systems, shifting from consumption-driven to ecologically appropriate lifestyles, changing from a meat-based to a protein-based diet, creating and distributing "superfoods" like spirulina, and applying the new "consciousness technology" for cultural transformation.

This is all a huge order, especially considering the forces that want to maintain the status quo, but new strategies are essential if we and our world are going to survive and prosper in the future. Dr Maynard has much to offer in the debate and makes us realise how much we take for granted.

# REVIEWS



## D V D S

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

### THE MEIER CONTACTS: The Key To Our Future Survival

They Fly! Productions/Michael Horn, 2004  
Distributor: They Fly! Productions, PO Box 5163, Playa del Rey, CA 90296 USA, tel +1 (310) 745 9009, website <http://www.theyfly.com>

While many so-called UFO researchers proudly proclaim the Billy Meier story is an elaborate hoax, I wonder just how many know of the information presented here: e.g., that Meier has survived 19 documented assassination attempts; that he's had ongoing contact with these ETs for over 60 years; that nobody has ever proven any of the thousands of close-up photos and films of UFOs to be faked (despite, at



times, constant surveillance from neighbours and sceptics waiting to catch him "in the act"); that he was given physical evidence by the aliens for scientific analysis, with astounding results; that dozens of times he was given specific scientific information and predictions that have since proved true; and that he has only one arm.

Part 1 of the documentary overviews the evidence on all levels for the genuineness of Billy Meier's claims. Parts 2 and 3 look at the prophecies, predictions and scientific information given to Meier. Some of this is truly amazing and very specific material. No wonder some people want him shut up!

Parts 4, 5 and 6 explore what we can do about the future. I found myself in almost total alignment with the principles espoused: self-responsibility, adherence to truth, etc.—nothing new, you might say, but it would indeed be new if more of us could put these principles into practice!

There is much on this DVD for everyone, and everyone who watches it will be most stunned at what they see and hear.

### GOVERNMENT GUINEA PIG: When Uncle Sam Wants You...

Guinea Pig, LLC/Jan C. J. Jones, 2004 (104mins)

Distributor: Guinea Pig, LLC, PO Box 2399, Monument CO 80132, USA, tel +1 (719) 487 0435, fax +1 (719) 488 3414, <http://www.governmentguineapig.com>

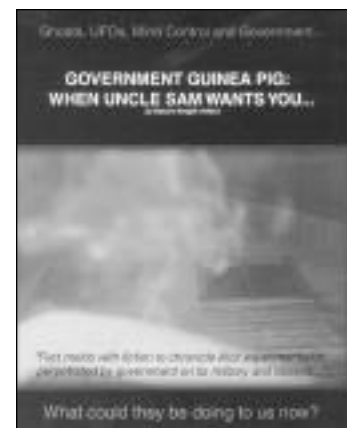
This is one of the most informative and gripping docu-dramas I have ever seen. Couched in a fictional setting (reminiscent of *Blair Witch Project* meets *X-Files*), this film is really produced as a documentary centred around the fascinating Steve Lee case. This is a successful approach because, in between interview clips with Steve and other witnesses, the film informs the viewer on most of the important aspects and facts surrounding government experimentation on unwitting citizens.

No conclusion is presented to explain the Steve Lee case. The viewer is left with an open mind as to whether the unusual phenomena are the result of ghost/poltergeist activity, aliens/UFOs, secret government mind control experimentation or even hyperdimensional portals/intersections.

The film takes an interesting turn about an hour in, when it starts to connect some of the "names" associated with nonlethal weapons research, remote viewing, human experimentation, UFOs and more. One could easily draw several conspiracy theories from this section alone. Names include the infamous Gordon Novell and Col. John Alexander, the Monroe Institute, Colin Bayer, Robert Bigelow and the National Institute for Discovery Science.

I liked the film because it didn't tell me what to conclude from the information presented. One is left with many questions, numerous research links to follow up and, above all, a healthy distrust of the government/military/industrial complex.

Recommended to anyone who suspects they're a victim of covert experimentation.







# REVIEWS

## MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

### AURORA

by Michael Atherton and James Ashley Franklin

Celestial Harmonies, 2003 (63mins)  
Distributors: **Aust**—Planet Distribution, tel (02) 9356 4866; **UK**—Discord Dist., tel (0)1892 863 888; **USA**—Celestial Harmonies, tel (520) 326 4400, website <http://www.harmonies.com>

Celestial Harmonies has a superb catalogue of specialist music dedicated to unusual world sounds. This album, *Aurora*, is more a piece of research into the effects of placing music into the sorts of spaces it's not normally found. It combines the Japanese shakuhachi and koto with guitars, marimba, double bass and a "ruined" piano. Experimenting with a "meditative intent" on the instruments, Atherton and Franklin produce a beautiful and relaxing exploration of the inner life of sound. An engaging album.

### SAHARA LOUNGE

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2004 (48mins)  
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Ltd, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, <http://www.putumayo.com>

In recent years the music and instruments of the Middle East have been blended with cutting-edge electronica, as on this new Putumayo release. *Sahara Lounge* presents a dozen tracks by performers from Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey and the UAR. Though traditionalists may find the upbeat mixes too much, there's merit in combining Western and Eastern producers to feature new music. Mixing Algerian Rai, Berber and Sufi with dub, beat and hip hop gives some renowned sounds on a captivating album.

### FLAMENCO ARABE

by Hossam Ramzy & Rafa El Tachuela  
ARC Music Prodns, UK, 2003 (72mins)  
Distributor: **UK**—ARC, tel +44 (0)1342 328567, <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

Recorded with four world-class musicians, this album comes as an exhilarating feast of flamenco and Arabic rhythms, including Hossam Ramzy's excellent percussion. The guitarist, Rafa El Tachuela, has a distinguished record in flamenco music. His ensemble, La Pasión Flamenca, travels Europe, performing classical and modern dance styles. The most outstanding track, "Silk Route Suite", is in four parts with the Arab and Indian origins of flamenco illustrated. Fascinating and captivating.

### SEFARAD

by Sefarad

ABC & Lotus Foot Music, Australia, 2003 (64mins)

Distributors: **Australia**—Lotus Foot Music, tel (02) 4782 5524, website <http://www.lotusfoot.com.au>

The Hebrew word for Spain is "Sefarad".

It also means a people—the Jewish population of Spain, with a long history in the country. Between the 9th and 12th centuries, Spain was under Arabic control and the Jewish and Muslim worlds regarded Andalusia as the intellectual jewel of their cultures. Christians, Jews and Arabs shared many aspects of music, art, science and philosophy. This album by Kim Cunio and Heather Lee (at times known as Oscar and Marigold), Imogen Granwal and Jonathan Holawell blends Islamic dance, Jewish music and mediaeval Spanish song and poetry in an exquisite collector's album.

### HECHO EN CUBA

by Ibrahim Ferrer, Rubén Gonzales and Compay Segundo

Central Station, Australia, 2004 (47mins)

Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Ltd, tel (07) 3849 6020; website <http://www.centralstation.com.au>; **USA**—Isba Music Entertainment

The Cuban music revival of the last seven years has flung the magic of the traditional Cuban sound out into the streets via the classic 1997 *Buena Vista Social Club* (NEXUS 5/02). Since then, that group's maestros have made their mark on the world scene. *Hecho en Cuba* is a collection of selected releases of several years of Cuban albums. This is a laidback journey through Cuba's musical traditions, featuring the best of Buena Vista and friends. Classic tracks include "Tula's Room" from the *Buena Vista* film, "Ay Candela" from Ibrahim Ferrer, and "Perhaps, Perhaps, Perhaps" featuring Omara Portuondo. An album that's guaranteed to get your hips moving.

